

# Harbinger

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 2006 VOL 20 NO 5

## Camping . . . Where Do I Begin?

The fire had died down to only embers. A few blue-yellow flames singularly darted in and out of the wood left in the fire ring. The rest of our group, one or two at a time, had wandered off to their tents to retire for the evening. Left alone at the fire, I stared intently into its glow thinking over the day's events and how much fun it had been. The work week, with its ringing phones and hurried schedules, seemed to have melted away. I gently stoked the fire, accompanied now only by the sounds of the night insects, an occasional whip-poor-will, and the gentle flow of the river as it rolled endlessly on downstream.

What draws me back to places like this? Is it to connect with nature on some more integral level or to be with family and friends who share that same bond? Is it the crispness of the air in the fall, the beauty of the dogwoods in the spring, or the smell of bacon cooking over the fire as I take my first sip of coffee early in the morning? My instinct is that it is all of those things and more.

Camping is a great experience for an individual or an entire family. It can be as comfortable or as primitive as you want to make it. You can load everything on your back and trek off into uncharted wilderness for weeks at a time or pull up to a campsite that offers full amenities including showers and electricity. All of this is available for you to explore in the Ozarks.

The equipment needed for a camping trip is relatively easy to get together even though it is somewhat like buying a new car or computer—there are lots of options to consider. Remember the four basics: food, water, shelter, and clothing. Let's take these considerations by the following categories: backpacking, tent or car camping, float camping, and RV camping. The equipment is matched to the type of camping that you want to do.

For backpacking, weight and space should be considered. The tent, stove, water container, food, and clothing are all designed to be lightweight. Food can be purchased as freeze-dried or dehydrated to save on weight. Clothing always includes good quality rain gear, boots, and lightweight clothes that can dry or wick moisture away from your body easily. Sleeping bags and tents are designed for the seasons you intend on camping. Most camping is done in the spring, summer, and fall or three seasons; therefore, the gear is designed for three-season camping. Equipment is also available for winter camping for those seeking that experience. Tents should have a full-coverage rainfly and seams (places where tent fabric is sewn together) that are hot-tape sealed in the factory. Backpacking tents usually sleep two or three people and can be purchased as three-season or convertible tents. Convertible tents may also be used in the winter but have ceiling panels that zip out for warm weather use. Sleeping bags should carry a 15-degree rating. Many avid campers have two sleeping bags—one for fall and spring and one for warmer months. Remember, everything that you take on a backpacking trip must fit into your backpack!

Tent or car camping is defined as camping where you can park your car. This method follows the same rules as backpacking; however, you are not as limited on the size of your camping gear and space needed to carry your gear. Larger tents and stoves, more lanterns, tables, screened-in tents, lawn chairs, and fuel for the fire are all used by car campers. Food is limited only to the amount of coolers and

ice you can haul. Many families keep planning and packing time to a minimum by storing all of their camping gear in a small trailer or in large containers. When it is time to go, they simply hook the trailer on or load the containers.

Camping from a boat or canoe is a popular type of camping in the Ozarks. You are limited only by what will reasonably fit into your boat or canoe. Typically a backpacking-style tent is used and an ice chest to keep food and drinks cold. There is even room for a two-burner stove, lantern, lawn chairs, and a dry bag for clothes and personal belongings.

RVs (recreational vehicles) are used many times where electrical hookups are available. No roughing it with this method—satellite dishes and air-conditioning are the norm.

For backpacking instruction, attend *Backpacking For Beginners* on Thursday, September 21. For a how-to lesson on beginning camping, join us on Saturday, October 21, for *Beginner Camping*. (See the *Events* page for program details.) For more information on where to camp, visit the Missouri Department of Conservation Southwest Regional Office or the nature center. We'll be happy to share how you can have a successful camping experience to create your own special memories.

~Alan Reed



## The View From The Bridge

Ask kids what their favorite holidays are and Halloween typically gets mentioned by many kids. Adults, too, often have fond memories of their childhood Halloween outings. For kids, the appeal of Halloween is typically associated with getting a loot of free candy in every imaginable shape and flavor. I suspect, however, that for most adults, the memory of sweet treats has long since been forgotten (although they may have a cavity as a subtle reminder of the sweets). Their Halloween memories are linked more to the *outing* itself.

While I remember the fun of sorting the candy (and eating it) and assembling and wearing the perfect costume, what I remember most vividly is getting the opportunity to do something that I only did one night each year—*walk around outside after dark*. Usually, the onset of dusk heralded the end of outdoor play, but Halloween was special. The chill of the night air, the rustle of dry leaves blowing across the lawn, and the damp smell of the cool night are far more memorable than the taste of candy. Being outside at night amplified your sense of wonder and imagination. Suddenly every noise took on greater importance. Moonlit trees cast eerie shadows that made imaginations run wild as a little bit of fear added to the excitement of the evening. The senses were heightened and engaged, which made the experience all the more memorable.

Sadly, much of the Halloween experiences of my childhood have changed. While no one would disagree that cutting down on sugar is a healthier choice, not being able to enjoy nighttime outdoor experiences is, arguably, a real loss. However, times have changed and safety is a real and present issue.

If you miss the fun of these kinds of childhood experiences, we invite you to make some new memories for your family by participating in our annual *Halloween Happening*. We've taken the best part of Halloween—the nighttime outdoor experience, heightened with just a touch of anticipation and mixed it with a conservation education message that is fun for the entire family. This two-evening event includes time to explore many activities indoors while waiting to go on a 45-minute guided hike. During the hike, you'll encounter super heroes like you've never seen them before. Each costumed character reveals how their super powers match the adaptations that wildlife use to survive on a daily basis. The event will be held on Thursday, October 26, and Friday, October 27, from 6:30-9:30pm each night. Hikes are on a first-come, first-served basis with the final hike leaving around 9pm each night. Come early and plan on spending at least 1½ hours. (See the *Events* page for additional details.)

Costumes aren't needed, but a sense of fun and an active imagination are required. And while the "treats" are *sweet*, they're not the edible kind, but the kind that make lasting memories. And, I promise, that's no "trick."

*Linda* Linda F. Chorce  
Nature Center Manager

## The Nature Nook Gift Shop



20%  
Off

September and  
October  
Featured  
Publication

Based on Don Kurz's original *Trees of Missouri* book, this concise, easy-to-carry field guide will help you identify trees in your yard, neighborhood, or natural area. Easy-to-understand descriptions, range maps, and full-color illustrations add to the guide's appeal.

**Discounted price: \$6 plus tax.**

Heritage card discount does not apply.

## New Publication . . .



## Temporary Displays

September

### Insect and Natural History Photography

by Photographer and Entomologist  
Dr. Thomas J. Riley

October

### The Nature Center Up Close

Photography by George Deatz

## Thank You

We would like to thank Jeff Truman, Caleb and Madison Barron, George Minier, Kayla Edge, and Melanie Astarita for donating various natural objects; Creed Millsaps for the loan of various props for *Conservation Kids' Club*; and Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World for the loan of a skunk mount on display for the coming year.

The Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield just west of US-65 off the James River Freeway (US-60). The area is open daily 8am to 9pm from March 1 to October 31, and 8am to 6pm during the remainder of the year. The building is open daily from 8am to 5pm year 'round. The building and area are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The area is closed to pets, bicycles, roller blades, hunting, fishing, collecting, and alcoholic beverages. No fees are charged.

Phone: 417/888-4237 Fax: 417/888-4241 <[www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/springfd](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/springfd)>



# ASK The Naturalist



Seasonal changes spark many questions. In this section, we answer some common questions about natural events.

**The squirrels are busy burying nuts for the winter. Do they remember where all those nuts are located?**

No, squirrels cannot memorize where they bury every acorn, hickory nut, or walnut. They may remember the general area where they stored the nuts, but they find the nut using their excellent sense of smell. Many times squirrels miss some of the nuts, allowing them to sprout the next spring.

**I own land that is within Springfield city limits. Can I hunt deer during the upcoming Urban Counties Portion of the firearms deer season on October 6 through 9?**

The Urban Counties Portion of the firearms deer season allows hunting in urban counties (in the Ozarks, this includes Greene, Christian, and Webster), but hunters must abide by local ordinances regarding the use of hunting equipment. Within the city limits of Springfield, it is illegal to discharge firearms and broadhead arrows. Therefore, hunting within Springfield city limits is NOT allowed during the Urban Counties Portion of the firearms deer season.

**My pond has suddenly become muddy and filled with dead plant material. What happened?**

Your pond water has mixed or "turned over." During the summer months, the sun warms the surface water, causing distinct layers of warm water at the top of the pond and cooler water at the bottom. As autumn approaches, the surface water cools and water layers mix. This stirs up much of the silt, dead plant, and algae material from the bottom of your pond.

## Chipping In . . . Sue Schuble

If you only read a list of her varied activities and didn't know her, you might think Volunteer Naturalist Sue Schuble was still working full time and not recently retired. Remaining very active in her daily life with many commitments, Sue's like a child in a playground skipping from playground equipment to playground equipment. Sue contributes her time to volunteer organizations such as the nature center, Dickerson Park Zoo, and the American National Fish and Wildlife Zooquarium. She is also an active member of the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society and is currently serving a second term as president of that organization. This involvement is a tribute to her personal drive, motivation, and attention to detail that has not stopped at retirement. What others might look upon as work, for Sue it's fun, relaxing, and an opportunity to give something back to the community.



She thrives on helping others through her volunteer duties. Her outgoing personality makes visitors feel welcomed and people around her feel comfortable. Eager to interact with visitors, her friendliness pushes her to jump at the chance to greet anyone who walks through the front doors at the nature center. Her motivation drives her to help wherever needed and her enthusiasm invites participation in activities and creates a fun atmosphere for those around her. She routinely helps with the *Conservation Kids' Club*, dresses up as a costumed character as part of *Halloween Happening* guided trail hikes, presents birds of prey programs, assists with *Eagle Days* and *Owl Prowls*, and works the information desk greeting visitors and answering questions.

Like a curious child, her attention is also drawn to adventure so she travels whenever her busy schedule allows. Exploring new areas—both exotic and within the United States—is one of her passions and she is often returning from a trip only to begin planning the next big adventure. She plans her trips well in advance and always arranges to have someone cover her volunteer duties in her absence.

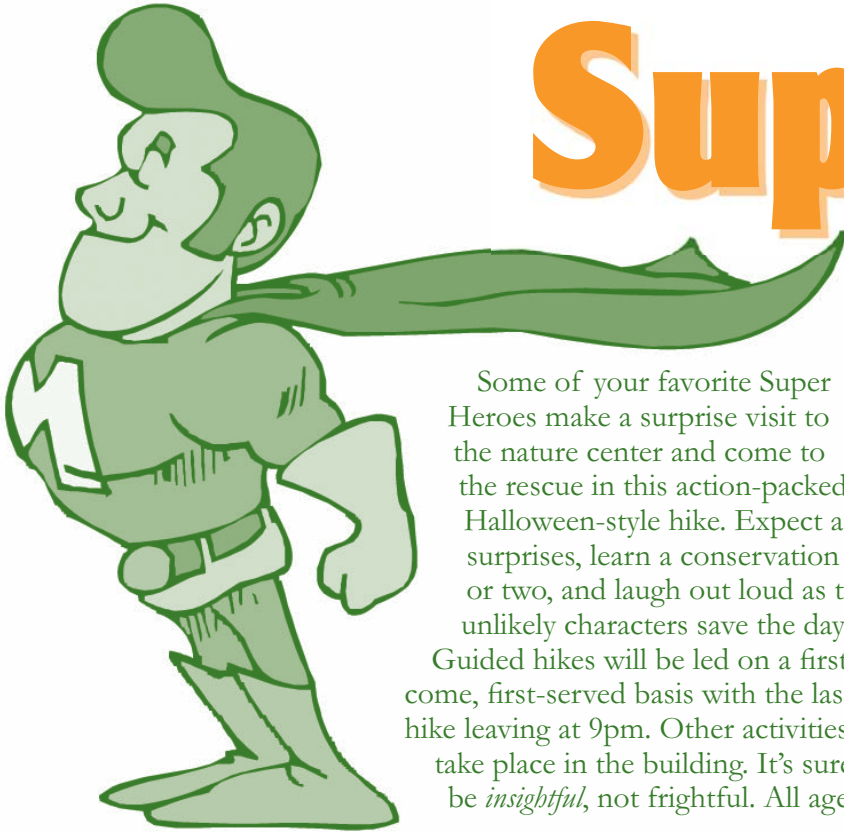
Sue's motivation helps her succeed in all endeavors and her personality makes her a fun person to be around. She keeps a busy schedule like someone you would expect to find on Wall Street, yet she skips along through life as if there's no tomorrow. The spirited child in her makes her eager to help others enjoy life as she does. So, the next time you see Sue working at the front desk or skipping to her next commitment, get her attention, and be sure to thank her for chipping in.

## Volunteer Milestones

Dana Tideman .....	500 Hours	Teddy Heaton .....	200 Hours
Sheryl Heun .....	300 Hours	Leslie Webster .....	100 Hours
Carol Snyder.....	300 Hours		

# Halloween Happening

# Super Hero Style



Some of your favorite Super Heroes make a surprise visit to the nature center and come to the rescue in this action-packed Halloween-style hike. Expect a few surprises, learn a conservation fact or two, and laugh out loud as these unlikely characters save the day. Guided hikes will be led on a first-come, first-served basis with the last hike leaving at 9pm. Other activities will take place in the building. It's sure to be *insightful*, not *frightful*. All ages.

Thursday, October 26  
Friday, October 27  
6:30–9:30pm

PRSR STD.  
US Postage Paid  
Jefferson City Mo  
Permit 274

Springfield Conservation Nature Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
4600 South Chrisman  
Springfield, MO 65804-4931  
Phone 417/888-4237  
Fax: 417/888-4241



Harbinger



# September Events



Call the nature center at 417/888-4237 on or after September 1 to register for September programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

## 2 Hiked It . . . Liked It! Weekend Hike

Saturday, 9–11am

Enjoy a volunteer naturalist-guided hike on the trails. All ages.



**VIDEOS ARE SHOWN  
EVERY SUNDAY  
FROM 2-3pm.**

## 8 Hunter Education

Friday, 6–9pm and Saturday, 8am–5pm

This 10-hour course is required for anyone born after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. This course is continued on Saturday from 8am to 5pm (lunch break given—lunch not provided). You must pass a written test to be certified. Ages 11–adult. *Call today to register.*

## 9 Cable Restraint Course

Saturday, 8am–3pm

Cable restraint devices hold animals alive and allow trappers to release non-target animals unharmed. The devices can be used to take furbearers from December 15 to February 15. This *Cable Restraint Course* is mandatory for those wishing to purchase a cable restraint permit. Meet at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range. All ages. *Call today to register.*

## The Art Of Woodcarving

Saturday, 10–11am

Try your hand at woodcarving with members of the Southern Missouri Woodcarving Artists as they teach carving techniques and show how to transform wood into works of art. Ages 12–adult. Registration required.

## Woodcarving Demonstration

Saturday, 10am–4pm

Drop by anytime to visit with members of the Southern Missouri Woodcarving Artists as they share information with the “wood-be” carver, demonstrate carving techniques, show works in progress, and sell some of their art pieces.

## Monarchs Rule!

Saturday, 1–2:30pm

Every fall millions of monarch butterflies wing over the Ozarks to their winter home in Mexico. Join Volunteer Naturalists Bob and Ruby Ball for an indoor/outdoor adventure to explore the fascinating behavior and life cycle of these beautiful travelers. All ages. Registration required.

## 10 For Adults Only Tumbling Creek Cave

Sunday, 8am–5:30pm

Join us for a unique educational tour as we travel near Forsyth to Tumbling Creek Cave, a privately-owned cave with an underground research laboratory. A surface tour in the morning will be followed by a cave tour in the afternoon. Bring a sack lunch, rough clothes, boots or shoes with tread, and at least two flashlights with new batteries. We will meet at the nature center and carpool. The fee for entry into the cave is \$15 per person. Ages 18–adult. Registration required.

## 10 Summer Hummers

Sunday, 5–6:30pm

Here’s a last chance send-off for the ruby-throated hummingbirds as they head for Mexico. Hummingbird bander Sarah Driver will share her knowledge about these tiny birds and attempt to capture and band some. All ages. Registration required.

## 13 Story Time With Ms. Ladybug

Wednesday, 11–11:30am

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2-6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

## 15 Nature And The Arts Creative Insect And Natural History Photography

Friday, 7–8pm

Photographer and Entomologist Dr. Tom Riley returns to present the first program in this season of *Nature And The Arts*. His photographs of insects, reptiles, and other natural history subjects transcend simple documentation to become striking and artistic images that will inspire your appreciation of these often overlooked creatures. Hear descriptions of his fascinating subjects and learn the techniques that go into creating these stunning photographs. Be sure to stop by and see his photographs on display all month. Ages 15–adult. *Call today to register.*

## 17 Conservation TEEN Club Archery For Beginners

Sunday, 2–4pm

You don’t have to be a hunter to become a skilled archery shooter. Learn a new skill and spend time practicing at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range. No experience is necessary. Meet at the range; gear and snacks will be provided. Ages 12–17. Registration required.

## 21 Babes In The Woods Celebrates Autumn

Thursday, 10–10:45am or 6–6:45pm

Introduce your favorite 0-2 year old to the wonders of the first day of autumn. Bring a stroller and join the fun. Registration required.

## Primitive Skills Series Backpacking For Beginners

Thursday, 7–9pm

Join two avid outdoorsmen, Volunteer Specialist Don Brink and special guest Lance Carlson, for an introduction to backpacking. Learn about the types of equipment, things beginners should know, and places to go in the Ozarks. After attending this program, you’ll be ready to venture out on your own. Ages 10–adult. Registration required.

## SPRINGFIELD CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

## LITTLE ACORNS

**LITTLE ACORNS** programs are for children 3-6 years and are 45-minutes in length. Please limit **LITTLE ACORNS** programs to one per month. Registration required.

### Hoppin’ Hoedown

What stories have you heard about grasshoppers? What are grasshoppers like? Let’s put on our straw hats and learn about all those crazy hoppers.

Thursday, September 14, 11am or 1:30pm

Saturday, September 16, 2pm

### Butterfly Magic

Butterflies grow up in a magical way. Volunteer Naturalist Tracy Richter takes us through the butterfly’s life cycle—from its humble beginnings to its glorious finish.

Tuesday, September 19, 11am or 1pm

Saturday, September 23, 11am

### Lucky Ladybugs

Ladybugs are lucky because everybody loves them. Join Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Ryan to find out why.

Thursday, September 21, 11am or 1pm

## 24 Hiking Club

Sunday, 1–9pm

This month Volunteer Naturalist Sandy Vaughn will lead a five-mile hike at Lead Mine Conservation Area. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Hike is rated moderate to difficult. Pack a sack lunch, bring water, and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Ages 18–adult. Registration required.

## Intermediate Photography

Sunday, 1:30–4:30pm

This course will cover both 35mm and digital photography using nature as the primary subject. The workshop includes a lecture by Volunteer Naturalist Art Daniels and a photography session in the field. Bring your camera, film, lenses, and a tripod. Ages 15–adult. Registration required.

## 26 Conservation Kids’ Club Secret Spider Society

Tuesday, 6:30–7:45pm

What does it take to be in a Secret Spider Society? It helps to spin webs, to balance on a piece of silk, to eat a liquid diet, and to live a quiet existence. Join us for a look at the secret life of spiders and become a member of the SSS. (Secret Spider Society). The password for this meeting is “eight eyes.” Bring a flashlight. Ages 7-12 only. Please, no younger siblings and only one adult per group of kids. Registration required

## at Bois D’Arc Conservation Area

Saturday, September 23, 8:30am to 4pm

Celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day with your family at Bois D’Arc Conservation Area located west of Willard.

For more information or a flier, call 895-6880.

## Attention, Scout Leaders and Parents:

Your scouts can have fun while satisfying certain badge/achievement requirements at the Great Outdoors Day event. Call the nature center to receive a flier.





# October Events



## SPRINGFIELD CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

Call the nature center at 417/888-4237 on or after October 1 to register for October programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

**VIDEOS ARE SHOWN EVERY SUNDAY FROM 2-3pm.**

### 6 Nature And The Arts York, The Improbable Explorer

Friday, 7–8:30pm

Captain William Clark of the Corps of Discovery is known for his extraordinary journey west. Less known is the story of York, his slave who accompanied him. While little written record was left of York, what we do know is that Captains Lewis & Clark might not have been successful without him. His story, while improbable, is true. However, the ending is what may surprise you most. Join us as we celebrate the bicentennial of the successful return of their journey. Conservation Department Wildlife Biologist James Dixon returns to present this first-person portrayal of York and to describe how his story ends. Ages 15-adult. *Call today to register.*

### 7 Hiked It . . . Liked It! Weekend Hike

Saturday, 9–11am

Enjoy a volunteer naturalist-guided hike on the trails. All ages.



### 8 Primitive Skills Day

Sunday, 1–5pm

Back by popular demand, Primitive Skills Day returns! See demonstrations in flint knapping, bow-and-arrow construction, making cordage out of plant fibers, beadwork, and fire making from some of the Ozarks' best primitive skills specialists. Volunteer Specialist Don Brink is joined by Bo Brown; T.C., Wanda, and Meagan Corning; Seth Entwisle; Ted and Jan Laney; Larry Maggard; and others. All ages.

### 11 Story Time With Ms. Ladybug

Wednesday, 11–11:30am



Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2-6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

### 12 Babes In The Woods

Thursday, 11–11:45am or 6–6:45pm

Join us for a guided nature stroll. Bring your 0-2 year old and a stroller to enjoy the beauty of a crisp, colorful autumn day. Registration required.

### 13 Hunter Education

Friday, 6–9pm and Saturday, 8am–5pm

This 10-hour course is required for anyone born after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. This course is continued on Saturday from 8am to 5pm (lunch break given—lunch not provided). You must pass a written test to be certified. Ages 11-adult. *Call today to register.*

### 14 Conservation TEEN Club Ha Ha Tonka Hiking

Saturday, 8am–4pm

Spend the day exploring the bluffs, caves, sinkholes, springs, and natural bridges that characterize Ha Ha Tonka State Park. Lunch and transportation will be provided. Ages 12-17. Registration required.

### 15 For Adults Only Fall Hiking Foray

Sunday, 8am–3pm

Enjoy the fall colors while hiking the Homesteaders Trail at the Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area near Branson. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Hike is approximately four miles and is rated moderate in difficulty. Pack a sack lunch, bring water, and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

### 20 Nature And The Arts Fiddles And Forests

Friday, 7–8:30pm

For many of the Scots/Irish who settled in the Missouri Ozarks, their music was all they brought with them. Join Conservation Department Education Consultant and musician Michael Fraser and members of the Shortleaf Band as they illuminate the cultural history of these brave and hardy settlers and the importance of conserving the natural resources they depended upon for survival. Their message is in the stories and music brought to you in a two-disk CD, *Fiddles And Forests*. Hear and enjoy. Autographed copies of the CD will be available to purchase following the program. Ages 15-adult. *Call today to register.*

### 21 A Day Of Nature Photography

Saturday, 9am–4:30pm

Join Volunteer Naturalist Art Daniels and members of the Southwest Missouri Camera Club for a day dedicated solely to nature photography. Learn about photography equipment, techniques, and composition. Afterwards, carpool to a Conservation Area to put your nature photography skills to the test. Bring film or digital camera, lenses, plenty of film/memory cards, spare batteries, tripods, and manual. Bring lunch and water, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, and any field guides you have. Ages 15-adult. Registration required.

### Beginner Camping

Saturday, 4–7pm

Have you ever thought about going camping, but weren't quite sure where to start? Meet at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range to learn some of the basics about camping such as pitching a tent, building a campfire, necessary equipment, outdoor hazards, great places to camp, and much more. Ages 6-adult. Registration required.

### Nature And The Arts Waltz Across Missouri Conservation Road Show

Saturday, 7–8:30pm

Two Missouri traditions, conservation and fiddling, converge in harmony with this dynamic presentation featuring beautiful images of natural Missouri and a live musical performance by Conservation Department Education Consultant Michael Fraser. Haunting tunes on the fiddle accompany a large screen video presenting natural scenery, people working in conservation, and people enjoying the natural resources of our great state. Ages 15-adult. *Call today to register.*

### 26 Halloween Happening Super Hero Style

Thursday, 6:30–9:30pm

Some of your favorite Super Heroes make a surprise visit to the nature center and come to the rescue in this action-packed Halloween-style hike. Expect a few surprises, learn a conservation fact or two, and laugh out loud as these unlikely characters save the day. Guided hikes will be led on a first-come, first-served basis with the last hike leaving at 9pm. Other activities will take place in the building. It's sure to be *insightful*, not *frightful*. All ages.

*The Conservation Kids' Club will not be meeting in October. Plan on bringing your entire family to participate in Halloween Happening.*



### 27 Halloween Happening Super Hero Style

Friday, 6:30–9:30pm

Some of your favorite Super Heroes make a surprise visit to the nature center and come to the rescue in this action-packed Halloween-style hike. Expect a few surprises, learn a conservation fact or two, and laugh out loud as these unlikely characters save the day. Guided hikes will be led on a first-come, first-served basis with the last hike leaving at 9pm. Other activities will take place in the building. It's sure to be *insightful*, not *frightful*. All ages.

### 28 Hiking Club

Saturday, 8am–5pm

Join Volunteer Naturalist Doug Gilliam for a day of hiking and viewing fall colors at Devil's Backbone Wilderness. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Hike is six miles and rated moderate to difficult. Pack a sack lunch, bring water, and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

## LITTLE ACORNS

LITTLE ACORNS programs are for children 3-6 years and are 45-minutes in length. Please limit LITTLE ACORNS programs to one per month. Registration required.

### Not-So-Spooky Spiders

Spiders may look strange or even creepy, but they're definitely not spooky! Learn all about the helpful habits of these tiny creatures.

Thursday, October 12, 11am or 1:30pm

Saturday, October 14, 11am

### Valuable Vultures

Vultures are often associated with grim situations, but they actually provide a great service to nature. Come learn all about these big birds and how valuable they are!

Wednesday, October 18, 11am or 1pm

### Get A Bat Attitude

Go batty with Volunteer Naturalist Michele Skalicky and learn why humans need bats, why bats need friends, and why bats need friends like you.

Friday, October 20, 1pm

Saturday, October 21, 11am